WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coated membrane for assessing the invasive capacity of a cell comprising;
    a) a porous membrane;
    b) a composition on a surface of said membrane, said composition comprising a reconstituted and aggregated extracellular matrix derived from the Englebreth-Holm-Swarm mouse tumor, a pH 7.8 to 8.2 buffer and a polyol.
2. The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said porous membrane is a polymer.
3. The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of a sugar, glycol and polymers and copolymers thereof.
4. The coated membrane of Claim 1 wherein said buffer comprises an aminoalcohol.
5. The coated membrane of Claim 1 further comprising a salt.
6. The coated membrane of Claim 1 which has been dried.
7. A coated membrane for assessing the invasive capacity of a cell comprising:
    a) a polyethyleneterephthalate porous membrane;
    b) a composition on a surface of said membrane, said composition comprising a reconstituted and aggregated extracellular matrix derived from the Englebreth-Holm-Swarm mouse tumor, a pH 7.8-8.2 buffer comprising tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane, salt and sucrose.
8. An assembly for assessing the invasive capacity of a cell comprising:
    a) a tissue culture plate having a well
    b) an insert for said plate, said insert having a deck portion having an opening defined by a wall through said deck, said wall dimensioned to be received in said well; and
    c) the coated membrane of Claim 1 providing a bottom wall for said opening.
9. The assembly of Claim 8 further comprising a lid dimensioned to sealingly fit over said insert.
10. The assembly of Claim 8 further comprising a feeder tray dimensioned to receive said insert.

11. A method for preparing a membrane for assessment of the invasive potential of a cell comprising:

a) preparing a solution of reconstituted extracellular matrix from the Englebreth-Holm-Swarm mouse tumor in a pH 7.8-8.2 buffer containing sucrose;

b) applying said solution to a surface of a porous membrane to give a coated membrane; and

c) inducing aggregation of components of said solution to give an aggregated coating on said membrane.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said solution further comprises a salt.

13. The method of Claim 11 further comprising stabilizing said aggregate coating on said membrane.